

NPL Partial Site Deletion Narrative

Commencement Bay, Near Shore/Tide Flats Pierce County, Washington

On October 29, 1996, EPA deleted portions of the Commencement Bay, Near Shore/Tide Flats (CB N/T) site located in Tacoma (Pierce County), Washington, from the National Priorities List (NPL).

The properties that EPA has deleted are all encompassed within the CB N/T site but have utilized different regulatory pathways to arrive at this point. Histories of the properties proposed for deletion and detailed descriptions of cleanup actions can be obtained from the Superfund docket.

Superfund response actions at the CB N/T site are managed under six operable units that constitute a comprehensive remedial response to actual or threatened release of hazardous substances associated with the Tacoma Tar pits, the ASARCO smelter, and the CB N/T marine environment. The six operable units (OUs) are as follows: OU 1-CB N/T Sediments, OU 2-ASARCO Tacoma Smelter, OU 3-Tacoma Tar Pits, OU 4-ASARCO Off-Property, OU 5-CB N/T Sources, and OU 6-ASARCO Sediments. This proposal for partial deletion of the site from the NPL is only for portions of two operable units: OU 1: CB N/T Sediments, and OU 5: CB N/T Sources.

This partial deletion does not include the remaining portions of OU 1 and OU 5, the other OUs of the site, or the other Puyallup Land Settlement Properties. In addition, this partial deletion does not include the portion of the Blair Backup Property that drains to the Hylebos Waterway. Response activities will continue at those areas of the site.

EPA deleted OU 1: CB N/T Sediments and OU 5: CB N/T Sources because all appropriate Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response activities have been completed in those areas.